

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 69

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the National Rifle Association should disavow and condemn the inflammatory and defamatory language used by its leadership and certain of its officers and employees to attack Federal law enforcement agencies and their employees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the National Rifle Association should disavow and condemn the inflammatory and defamatory language used by its leadership and certain of its officers and employees to attack Federal law enforcement agencies and their employees.

Whereas the United States is a model for the world of free and vigorous political debate, peaceful democratic change, and respect for the rule of law;

Whereas our long tradition of peaceful political change depends largely upon the universal rejection by the American people of extremist calls to violence and of inflammatory denigration of the institutions of our Government;

Whereas the leadership and certain officers and employees of the National Rifle Association—as opposed to its grass roots membership—have repeatedly and unjustly attacked Federal law enforcement agencies and Federal law enforcement officers;

Whereas, for example, in a fundraising letter sent out shortly before the Oklahoma City terrorist bombing, the leadership of the National Rifle Association called Federal law enforcement officers “jack-booted government thugs, wearing black, armed to the teeth”, who “break down a door, open fire with an automatic weapon, and kill or maim law-abiding citizens”;

Whereas this and other intemperate, unfounded, and inaccurate language by the leadership of the National Rifle Association defames thousands of dedicated men and women who risk their lives every day enforcing the laws this Congress has enacted;

Whereas these defamatory excesses by the leadership of the National Rifle Association dishonor the memory and sully the sacrifices of the hundreds of selfless law enforcement officers who have given their lives in enforcing the laws upon which America’s “domestic tranquility” depends;

Whereas President Clinton and former President Bush alike have condemned the use of this inflammatory and defamatory language by the leadership of the National Rifle Association; and

Whereas the membership of the National Rifle Association should have an opportunity to repudiate the unwise and intemperate use of this language by the leadership and certain officers and employees of the National Rifle Association: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the intemperate, inflammatory, and defama-
4 tory language used by the National Rifle Association
5 to attack Federal law enforcement agencies and
6 Federal law enforcement officers tends to erode the
7 spirit of vigorous debate, respect for the rule of law,
8 and peaceful change that is the bedrock of our de-
9 mocracy; and

10 (2) the National Rifle Association should
11 present to its members, and its members should
12 pass, a resolution condemning the past use of such
13 language by the leadership and certain officers and
14 employees of the National Rifle Association, repudi-
15 ating the use of such language in the future, and di-
16 recting such officers and employees to return to the
17 mainstream of American life by exercising the more
18 judicious restraint in debate that characterizes a
19 civil and just society.

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